



Climate forecasts in disaster management: Red Cross flood operations in West Africa, 2008

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Abstract:

In 2008, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) used a seasonal forecast for West Africa for the first time to implement an Early Warning, Early Action strategy for enhanced flood preparedness and response. Interviews with disaster managers suggest that this approach improved their capacity and response. Relief supplies reached flood victims within days, as opposed to weeks in previous years, thereby preventing further loss of life, illness, and setbacks to livelihoods, as well as augmenting the efficiency of resource use. This case demonstrates the potential benefits to be realised from the use of medium-to-long-range forecasts in disaster management, especially in the context of potential increases in extreme weather and climate-related events due to climate variability and change. However, harnessing the full potential of these forecasts will require continued effort and collaboration among disaster managers, climate service providers, and major humanitarian donors.

Source: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-7717.2012.01297.x>

Resource Description

Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Other Communication Audience: Disaster Response/Management Community

Early Warning System:

resource focus on systems used to warn populations of high temperatures, extreme weather, or other elements of climate change to prevent harm to health

A focus of content

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Extreme Weather Event

Extreme Weather Event: Flooding

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Geographic Feature: ☒

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location: ☒

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Africa

African Region/Country: African Region

Other African Region: West Africa

Health Impact: ☒

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Morbidity/Mortality

Intervention: ☒

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation: ☒

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Model/Methodology: ☒

type of model used or methodology development is a focus of resource

Methodology

Resource Type: ☒

format or standard characteristic of resource

Policy/Opinion

Timescale: ☒

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified